

18 July 1955

The Honorable Dennis Chavez, Chairman
Department of Defense Subcommittee
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I greatly appreciated the opportunity of appearing before your Subcommittee on July 15th in support of our request for appropriations to construct a headquarters installation for the Central Intelligence Agency. CIA believes that the sites at Langley and at Alexandria, Virginia, are the two areas which deserve most serious consideration. As we indicated, our preference is for the site on the Government-owned land at Langley. We have made this determination after carefully considering more than 30 possible sites in or near the metropolitan area of the District of Columbia.

The Langley site is as accessible to the homes of our employees as our present location, and hence relocations of the residences of the bulk of our personnel would be unnecessary. It compares very favorably with other sites under consideration in terms of accessibility to other Government agencies with which we must be in constant contact. A far greater measure of security protection could be attained at the Langley site in view of the fact that the building itself would be further from the public highways than at other sites, and it would be bordered on three sides by Government-owned land under control of the Bureau of Public Roads and the National Park Service. It would be a simple matter to limit access to the site itself to those persons having legitimate business with the Agency, while at the same time not interfering in any way with the public use of the Memorial Parkway and Highway 123. I am convinced that, with the exception of the cost of the extension of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, the selection of the Langley site would not be an additional burden on the taxpayer. Moreover, the law providing for the Memorial Parkway has been on the statute books for twenty-five years, and the Parkway's completion and connection with the proposed Cabin John Bridge and the Outer Belt highway are a part of the master plan for the development of the metropolitan area.

While I understand the reluctance on the part of a few residents of the area to have this site selected, there is no question but that this minority is very small indeed, and that Fairfax County, including its elected officials, wholeheartedly welcomes the possibility of CIA locating at the Langley site. We certainly wish to consider the wishes of the residents in any area where we might locate. In this case we feel that the fears of the minority regarding the impact of CIA locating in their community are greatly exaggerated. In any case, however, it seems clear that, all things considered, the CIA would be better able to perform its functions from this location than others under consideration, and this factor should, I believe, be controlling.

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In view of what I believe to be many misleading statements and inaccuracies submitted to your Committee by opponents to the Langley site, I am attaching herewith a more detailed additional statement to my testimony which I respectfully request be considered by your Committee in its deliberations and incorporated in the record.

Respectfully yours,

/s/

Allen W. Dulles
Director